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SPECIAL ONESHOT
Centre colour page with 18 pages!

A QUESTION FROM AN INNOCENT LITTLE GIRL.

「何(ナン)"HOW FAR"まで(マデ)なら(ナラ)CAN
殺(コロ)メル YOU:せる(セル)?"KILL?"」

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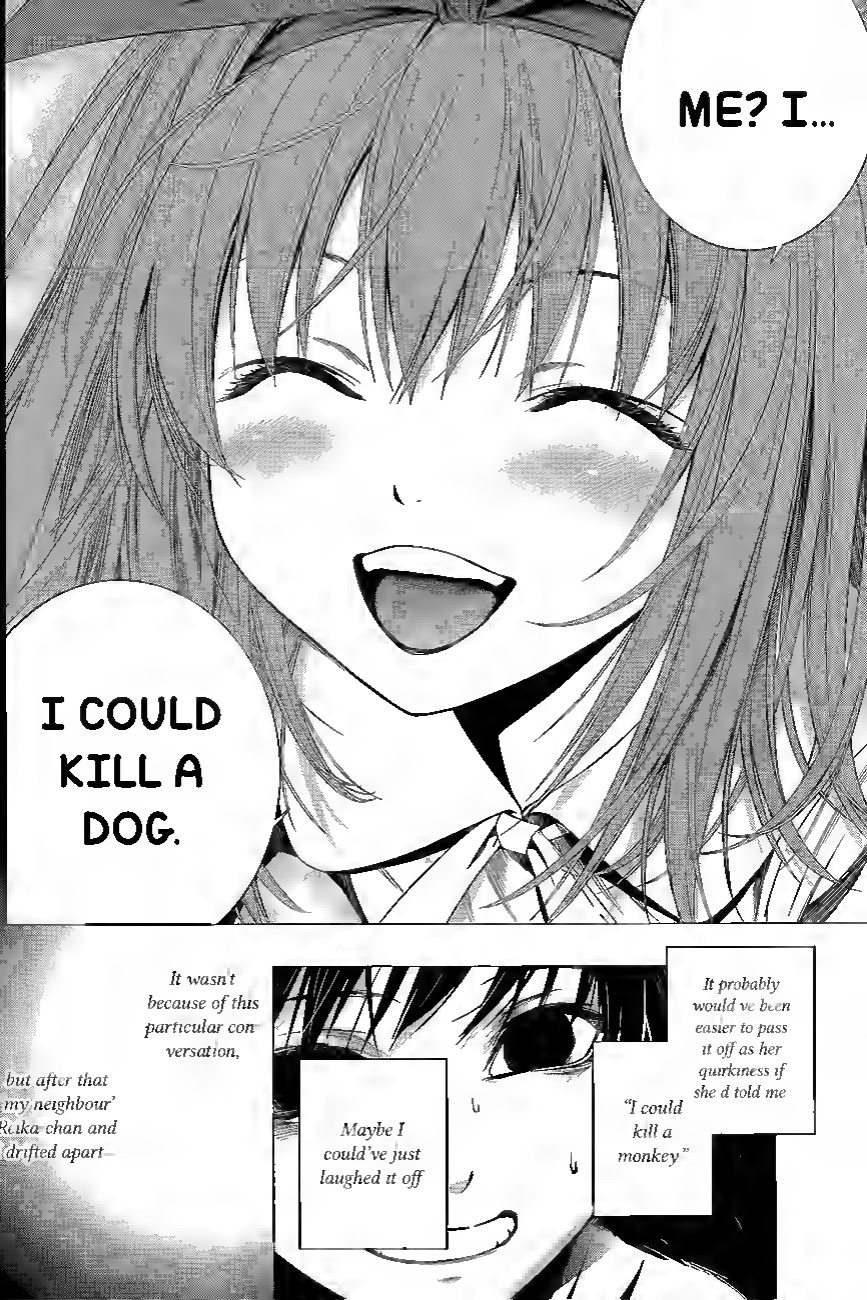
HEY KYUU-CHAN,
KYUU-CHAN,
...THE GIRL ASKS.
HOW FAR CAN YOU KILL?
...HUH?

THINGS LIKE ANTS, SPIDERS, AND OTHER BUGS,
WE CAN SQUISH WITHOUT MUCH THOUGHT, RIGHT?
BUT IF IT'S A FISH, WE FEEL A LITTLE RELUCTANT WHEN KILLING IT.
WE BEGIN TO FEEL THE PRESSURES OF TAKING A LIFE.
IT GETS WORSE IF THE FISH IS REPLACED BY AN AMPHIBIAN,
AND EVEN MORE SO IF THE AMPHIBIAN BECOMES A REPTILE.
THE PRESSURES ARE WORSE IF THE REPTILE BECOMES A BIRD,
AND EVEN WORSE WHEN THE BIRD BECOMES A MAMMAL.
THE HIGHER UP THE CHAIN WE MOVE TOWARDS THE MORE ADVANCED CREATURES, THE MORE WE HATE TO KILL THEM.

I THINK THE HIGHEST HURDLE WOULD BE... PEOPLE.
AND EVENTUALLY
WE HIT A HURDLE THAT'S TOO HIGH TO OVERCOME.
WE'RE UNABLE TO KILL ANY-THING BEYOND THAT POINT.
ゴクッ。。。

HOW FAR CAN YOU KILL?
...WHAT ABOUT YOU, REIKA-CHAN?


ME? I...
I COULD KILL A DOG.
It wasn't because of this particular conversation,
but after that my neighbour' Reika chan and I drifted apart
Maybe I could've just laughed it off
"I could kill a monkey"
It probably would've been easier to pass it off as her quirkiness if she'd told me

UGH... I'M SO TIRED.
GAGAGA
...I'M OFF
STILL, WHY'D I RANDOMLY REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED BACK THEN?
THAT WAS... TEN YEARS AGO?
...MAN, NOW I'M FEELING ALL DEPRESSED... MAYBE I SHOULD JUST SKIP TODAY AND GO TO THE ARCADE
KIRA KIRA
!
...
Thinking back now... why'd she even ask me something like that?

ドラ
ドラ
HI KYUU-CHAN,
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT?

AH... OH... REIKA-CHAN... YEAH, IT HAS-
ドキ
ドキ
ムズ…
PERFECT TIMING.
HERE, HELP ME WITH THIS.
!?
THIS IS HEAVY! WHAT'S IN IT?!
HUH?! WAIT!
A DOG CORPSE.

MY PET DOG... IT DIED YESTERDAY.
YOU KNOW HOW I'M A LITTLE WEIRD, AND YOU'RE ABOUT MY ONLY FRIEND?
WELL, MY DADDY WAS WORRIED AND HE BROUGHT A DOG HOME ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO TO BE FRIENDS WITH ME.
EVER SINCE THEN, WE'VE BEEN INSEPARABLE AT HOME
BUT LAST NIGHT, IT DIED IN ITS SLEEP...
WOW, I HAD NO IDEA YOU HAD A PET DOG.
That means... she told me she could kill a dog around the time she got one as a pet...?
Oh! Wow!
That's not just a little weird
T-TEN YEARS IN DOG YEARS IS PRETTY LONG TIME, ISN'T IT?
But I'm relieved it's lived so long For a second there, I thought she really killed it
Haha

I WAS ACTUALLY... THINKING OF KILLING IT.
?!
IT LOST ALL ITS TEETH SO IT COULD ONLY EAT LIQUID FOODS, AND EVEN DRINKING WATER SEEMED PAINFUL.
ITS LEGS GOT SO WEAK IT COULDN'T EVEN WALK.
IT COULDN'T SEE ANYMORE EITHER AND COULDN'T EVEN RECOGNISE ME ANYMORE.
I KEPT TELLING MYSELF I SHOULD PUT IT DOWN AND EASE ITS PAIN.
BUT I COULDN'T KILL IT.
MAYBE I DIDN'T LOVE IT ENOUGH? I UNDERSTOOD THE LOGIC FOR KILLING IT,
BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT.

...THE DOG AND I USED TO PLAY A LOT IN THIS AREA BACK WHEN IT COULD STILL MOVE
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? SOMEONE'S GONNA GET REALLY PISSED OFF
IF WE'RE CAUGHT BURYING YOUR DOG HERE..
FOR OVER TEN YEARS THIS DOG WAS MY ONLY FRIEND..
I'M SURE I CAN OVERCOME THAT LITTLE HURDLE.
HEY REIKA-CHAN, ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID...
KYUU-CHAN, DO YOU STILL REMEMBER WHAT I SAID BACK THEN?
!!!
Hurdle...

...
AH SORRY, I DON'T REMEMBER.
I TAKE IT BACK. ...IT WAS ONLY EVER MEANT TO BE A JOKE.
YOU STOPPED PLAYING WITH ME EVER SINCE I ASKED YOU.
THE "HOW FAR CAN YOU KILL?" THING.
I BET THAT'S A JOKE! AND ONE THAT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY!!
YOU WHAT?!
SO I GOT A LITTLE DESPERATE AND SAID SOME WEIRD THINGS TO GET YOUR ATTENTION.
YOU KNOW, I REALLY LIKED YOU BACK THEN,
I LOVED IT SO MUCH I TOOK CARE OF IT, I PROTECTED IT,
I PROBABLY MADE IT LIVE A LONGER LIFE THAN IT SHOULD'VE.
Still. I should've known that whole conversation was just a joke
She liked me?
Damn...
IN TERMS OF LOVE, I REALLY DID LOVE THIS DOG.
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT MAYBE I REALLY DIDN'T LOVE IT ENOUGH.
HEHE... BUT IT'S STRANGE.
?

I WONDER WHY I COULDN'T HELP IT DIE.
BUT EVEN THOUGH I COULD HELP IT LIVE ON,
I SEE. NORMAL.
NORMALLY... PEOPLE DON'T GO AROUND KILLING THE THINGS THEY LOVE
THAT'S NORMAL.
I GUESS I'M A LOT MORE DECENT THAN I THOUGHT.
THAT'S A LITTLE DISAP-POINTING...

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN? THERE'S A DIFFERENT AURA ABOUT YOU...
OH YEAH.
THANKS KYUU-CHAN. SORRY FOR MAKING YOU SIT THROUGH ALL THAT.
HAHA...
WELL, A LOT HAPPENED TO ME TOO
JUST SAY FAILURE
DIFFERENT? YOU DON'T HAVE TO SUGARCOAT IT FOR ME
THEN IT'S ALL BEEN DOWNHILL. I GUESS THIS IS WHAT THEY MEAN BY BEING "DOWN AND OUT".
I ENROLLED INTO A PUBLIC SCHOOL AND HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SETTLE IN SINCE
I COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH MY STUDIES AND DROPPED OUT AFTER JUNIOR HIGH
EVERYTHING WAS GREAT UNTIL I GOT INTO A PRIVATE SCHOOL
WHY DO I HAVE TO KEEP LIVING LIKE THIS WHEN I KNOW I'M JUST GONNA KEEP ON FAILING?
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW I'M GONNA SURVIVE ANOTHER TEN YEARS OF THIS
might've been the peak of my life
Now that I think about it, playing in the sandpit with Reika-chan

...?
KYUU-CHAN...
...
I GET IT NOW.. WHEN I THOUGHT KILLING A PERSON WOULD BE THE HARDEST..
ぎゅ
I HAD MADE AN ASSUMPTION.
PEOPLE AREN'T REALLY THAT ADVANCED CREATURES.
HUH?

MAYBE PEOPLE ARE MY LIMIT.
EVEN THOUGH I FAILED AT A DOG,

I laughed to myself as my consciousness slipped away
At the very least I learnt that Reika-chan's feelings for me weren't a joke after all.
...And one more thing,
how far can you kill?

"How far can you kill?"

THE HURDLE IS DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE...

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